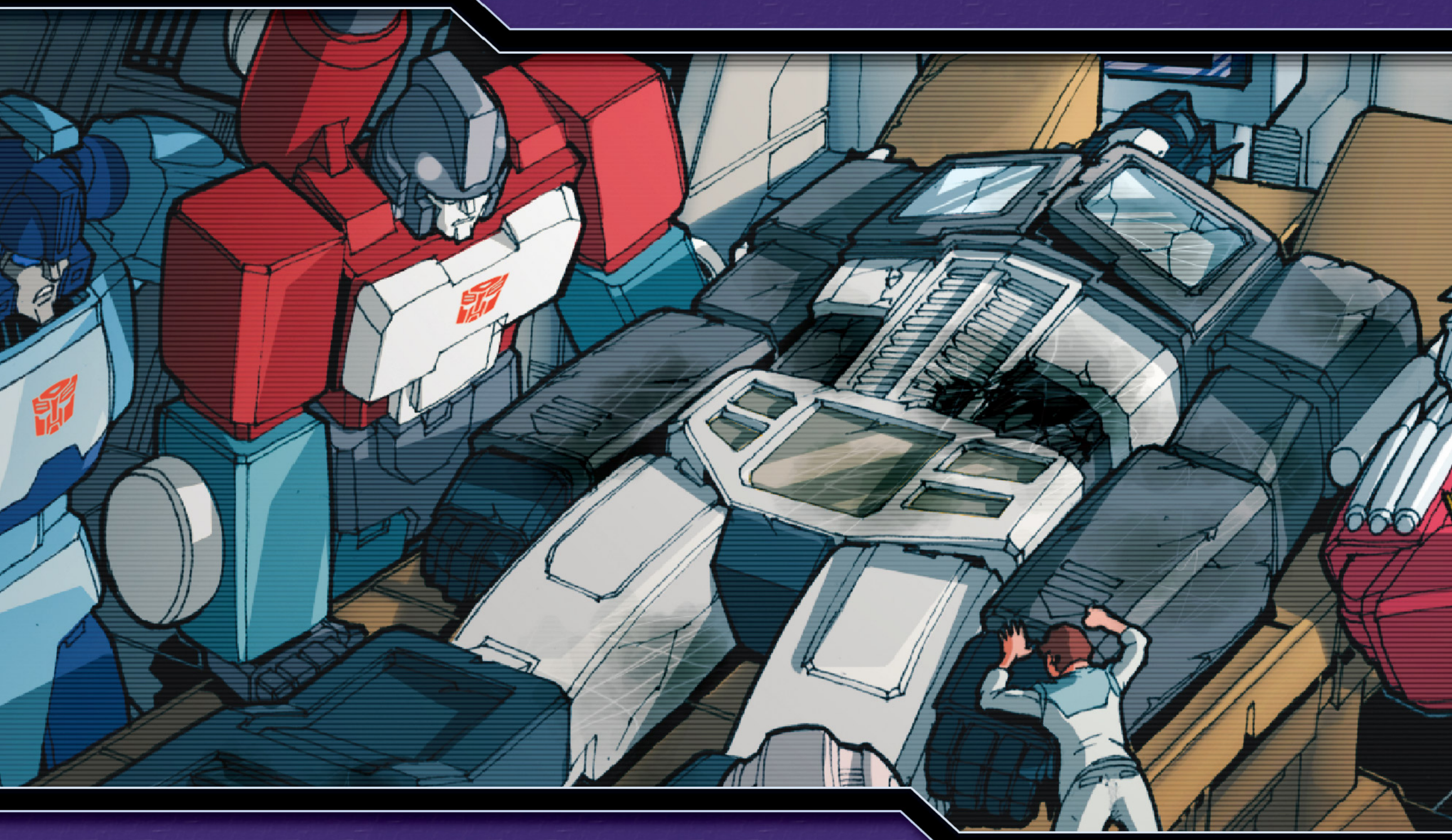
TRANSFORMERS

UNICRON



THE TRANSFORMERS: THE ANIMATED MOVIE

BOB BUDIANSKY, WRITER

DON FIGUEROA, ARTIST

JOSH BURCHAM, COLORIST

Color Assists on Issue #4: Tim Barnett, Rob Ruffolo, Robby Musso, Matt Moylan, Evan Gauntt, Mark Bristow

Letters by Robbie Robbins and Neil Uyetake
Original Series Edits by Chris Ryall
Designs by Neil Uyetake
Collection Edits by Justin Eisinger

TRANSFORMERS #1

BRIAN RUCKLEY, WRITER

ANGEL HERNANDEZ, ARTIST (pages 1-9, 14-20)

CACHÉT WHITMAN, ARTIST (pages 10-13)

JOANA LAFUENTE, COLORIST

TOM B. LONG, LETTERER

Edits by
DAVID MARIOTTE
TOM WALTZ

Special thanks to Ben Montano, Sonal Majmudar, Kelly Johnson, Bryan Olender, Matt Clarke, Ed Lane, Beth Artale, and Michael Kelly.

For international rights, contact **licensing@idwpublishing.com**

IDW® Licensed By: Hasbro

www.IDWPUBLISHING.com

Chris Ryall, President & Publisher/CCO • **John Barber**, Editor-in-Chief • **Cara Morrison**, Chief Financial Officer • **Matthew Ruzicka**, Chief Accounting Officer • **David Hedgecock**, Associate Publisher • **Jerry Bennington**, VP of New Product Development • **Lorelei Bunjes**, VP of Digital Services • **Justin Eisinger**, Editorial Director, Graphic Novels and Collections • **Eric Moss**, Sr. Director, Licensing & Business Development

Ted Adams and Robbie Robbins, IDW Founders

Facebook: **facebook.com/idwpublishing** • Twitter: **@idwpublishing** • YouTube: **youtube.com/idwpublishing**
Tumblr: **tumblr.idwpublishing.com** • Instagram: **instagram.com/idwpublishing**

TRANSFORMERS: WAR FOR CYBERTRON UNICRON EXCLUSIVE DIGITAL COLLECTION. NOVEMBER 2019. HASBRO and its logo, TRANSFORMERS, and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2019 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved. IDW Publishing, a division of Idea and Design Works, LLC. Editorial offices: 2765 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106. The IDW logo is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Idea and Design Works, LLC. IDW Publishing does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork.

TRANSFORMERS
THE ANIMATED MOVIE

PROLOGUE.

IN A QUIET CORNER OF THE GALAXY, A PLANET SPINS PEACEFULLY IN ITS ORBIT...

...ITS INHABITANTS BLISSFULLY UNAWARE...

...OF THE *HORRIBLE FATE* THEY ARE ABOUT TO SUFFER.

KRANIX, HERE ARE THE CHEMICALS YOU REQUESTED.

THANK YOU, *ARBLUS*.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

KA-RA KKK

ARBLUS, LOOK! IT'S *UNICRON*!

THE *PLANET-EATER*!

GET TO THE SHIPS! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE OF SURVIVAL!

...OUR *ONLY* CHANCE!

AND SO, WITH A SAVAGE FURY UNEQUALLED IN ALL THE KNOWN UNIVERSE...

...THE IMMENSE ORB KNOWN AS ***UNICRON***...

...BRINGS THE PLANET'S LIFE...

...TO A BLISTERING, BRUTAL ***END!***

END OF PROLOGUE.

ELSEWHERE...

THE TREACHEROUS ***DECEPTICONS*** HAVE CONQUERED THE ***AUTOBOTS'*** HOME PLANET OF ***CYBERTRON.***

BUT FROM SECRET STAGING GROUNDS ON TWO OF CYBERTRON'S MOONS...

...THE VALIANT AUTOBOTS PREPARE TO RETAKE THEIR HOMELAND.

I'M TIRED OF THIS WAITING GAME, ***OPTIMUS PRIME.***

WHEN ARE WE GONNA START BUSTIN' DECEPTICHOPS?

IRONHIDE, WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH ***ENERGON CUBES**** TO POWER A FULL-SCALE ASSAULT ON THE DECEPTICONS.

I WANT YOU TO MAKE A SPECIAL RUN TO ***AUTOBOT CITY**** ON EARTH TO GET ***MORE.***

READY THE SHUTTLE FOR LAUNCH!

JAZZ, REPORT SECURITY STATUS!

NO SIGN OF DECEPTICONS HERE, PRIME!

WHAT ABOUT MOON BASE 2?

JAZZ TO MOON BASE 2!

*ENERGON IS THE TRANSFORMERS' PRIMARY SOURCE OF FUEL.
**AUTOBOT CITY MANUFACTURES ENERGON FOR THE AUTOBOTS

"JAZZ TO MOON BASE 2!"

BUMBLEBEE AND SPIKE HERE!

WE'RE ABOUT TO SEND THE SHUTTLE TO EARTH. ANY DECEPTICON SHENANIGANS IN YOUR SECTOR?

ALL CLEAR, IRONHIDE.

HEY, IRONHIDE—

WHEN YOU GET TO EARTH, TELL MY SON DANIEL I MISS HIM!

AND TELL HIM NOT TO WORRY. I'LL BE COMING HOME AS SOON AS WE'VE KICKED MEGATRON'S TAIL ACROSS THE GALAXY!

WILL DO, SPIKE.

COMMENCE COUNTDOWN!

YOU GOT IT, PRIME!

MOMENTS LATER...

BLAST OFF!

VROOOOOSH

NOW, ALL WE NEED IS A LITTLE ENERGON...

...AND A LOT OF LUCK!

BUT OPTIMUS PRIME'S PLAN...

...IS NOT HEARD BY AUTOBOT AUDIO CIRCUITS ALONE.

LASERBEAK RETURNS, MEGATRON!

WELCOME, LASERBEAK. UNLIKE SOME OF MY *OTHER* WARRIORS...

...*YOU* NEVER FAIL ME!

SOUNDWAVE–PLAY BACK LASERBEAK'S FINDINGS!

AS YOU COMMAND, MEGATRON.

...WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH *ENERGON CUBES* TO POWER A FULL-SCALE ASSAULT ON THE DECEPTICONS. I WANT YOU TO MAKE A SPECIAL RUN TO *AUTOBOT CITY* ON EARTH...

...NOW ALL THAT WE NEED IS A LITTLE *ENERGON*... AND A LOT OF *LUCK*!

MORE THAN YOU *IMAGINE*, OPTIMUS PRIME! HEH HEH!

LATER, AS THE AUTOBOT SHUTTLE JOURNEYS TO EARTH...

MEGATRON!

AND WITHIN MERE SECONDS...

BWOOM

DIE, AUTOBOTS!

...AS THE DECEPTICONS' LETHAL BARRAGE OVERWHELMS THEM...

ACKKK!

YARRGGH!

KK-RAKK

SKREKK

PKOW

...THE AUTOBOTS DO EXACTLY THAT.

THIS WAS ALMOST TOO EASY, ***STARSCREAM!***

MUCH EASIER, O' MIGHTY MEGATRON, THAN ATTACKING THE ***REAL*** THREAT— THE ***AUTOBOTS' MOON BASE!***

YOU'RE AN ***IDIOT!*** WHEN WE SLIP BY THEIR EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN THEIR OWN SHUTTLE AND ***DESTROY*** AUTOBOT CITY...

...THE AUTOBOTS WILL BE ***VANQUISHED FOREVER!***

ELSEWHERE, ON EARTH, FAR AWAY FROM THE CARNAGE ABOARD THE SHUTTLE...

I CAUGHT SOMETHING, *DANIEL!*

WHOA, LOOK AT THE SIZE OF IT, *HOT ROD!*

THE SHUTTLE'S COMING!

LET'S WATCH IT LAND!

eep-eep-eep-eep-

IF YOU'RE GONNA RIDE, DAN-O...

...RIDE IN STYLE!

TURBO-REVVIN' YOUNG PUNK!

SORRY, *KUP!*

WE'RE HERE, DAN-O—*AUTOBOT CITY!*

MOMENTS LATER, INSIDE THE CITY...

THERE'S THE SHUTTLE... COMING IN FOR A LANDING!

HOT ROD, *LOOK!* THERE'S A *HOLE* IN THE SHUTTLE!

WHAT?! I BETTER TAKE A CLOSER LOOK—

"DECEPTICONS!"

BA-WOOM

PYEWW PYEWW PYEWW PYEWW

ATTAAACK!

ELSEWHERE IN AUTOBOT CITY, ***PERCEPTOR*** MANS HIS OBSERVATION POST...

V>>**we44

02510

OH MY!

ULTRA MAGNUS!

A CURSORY EVALUATION OF DECEPTICON CAPABILITY INDICATES A DISTINCT TACTICAL DEFICIENCY!

IN OTHER WORDS, PERCEPTOR—

—WE'RE OUTNUMBERED!

SPRINGER, YOU AND ***ARCEE*** TRANSFORM AUTOBOT CITY!

PERCEPTOR, TELL ***BLASTER*** TO RADIO PRIME FOR REINFORCEMENTS!

BWOOM

BUT SPRINGER— HOT ROD AND DANIEL ARE STILL ***OUTSIDE*** THE CITY!

THEY'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES, ***ARCEE***. WE CAN'T WAIT!

C'MON!

BUT AS THE TWO AUTOBOTS BEGIN THE TASK OF TRANSFORMING AUTOBOT CITY INTO AN IMPENETRABLE FORTRESS...

PATHETIC FOOLS!

THERE'S NO ESCAPE!

TWEE TWEE TWEE

BUT AS THE ARMORED DOORS OF AUTOBOT CITY'S COMMAND CENTER CLOSE BEHIND THEM, THE TWO DETERMINED AUTOBOTS *DO* ESCAPE...

THE ROOF— IT'S *CLOSING!*

...HOWEVER, THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR *STARSCREAM*...

ARRGHHH! MY FOOT!

AGGKKKK!

ELSEWHERE...

INSECTICONS!

BREACH THEIR DEFENSES!

DELICIOUS, EH, *SHRAPNEL?*

A LITTLE HEAVY ON THE ELECTRONS, *KICKBACK!*

HOT ROD, THE INSECTICONS ARE IN OUR WAY!

WRONG, KUP! THEY'RE *OUR WAY IN!*

BWONK

KRUNK

MEANWHILE, IN AUTOBOT CITY'S TRANSMISSION TOWER...

BLASTER, ULTRA MAGNUS SENDS ORDERS TO CONTACT ***OPTIMUS PRIME*** ON ***MOON BASE 1.***

ALRIGHT! COVER YOUR RECEPTORS, PERCEPTOR!

OPTIMUS PRIME, ***DO YOU READ ME?***

THE DECEPTICONS ARE ***BLITZING*** AUTOBOT CITY. DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER WE CAN HOLD OUT!

SOUNDWAVE, ***JAM THAT TRANSMISSION!***

RUMBLE, FRENZY, RAVAGE, RATBAT—EJECT!

BEGIN ***OPERATION INTERFERENCE!***

FIRST WE CRACK THE ***SHELL***—

—THEN WE CRACK THE ***NUTS*** INSIDE!

KA-RA-KKK

NO WAY, TWO CAN PLAY!

YOU THINK YOU GOT THROUGH TO PRIME?

LETS HOPE SO.

IF I DIDN'T, WE'RE GONNA END UP LOOKING LIKE BURNT-OUT TOASTER OVENS!

ANY REINFORCEMENTS COMING FROM AUTOBOT HEADQUARTERS?

I RAISED AN ALERT AS SOON AS I HEARD THE FIRST EXPLOSIONS—

SO WHERE ARE THEY? OMEGA SUPREME, THE AERIALBOTS...

SORRY, BUDDY...

"...BUT THEY HAVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS TO DEAL WITH."

SITUATION... DIRE.

BRUTICUS *DESTROY* AUTOBOT GUARDIAN!

AND AS THE BATTLE RAGES INSIDE THE TOWER, AN EVEN ***BIGGER*** BATTLE RAGES OUTSIDE...

...AS THE DECEPTICONS LAY SIEGE TO THE AUTOBOTS' STRONGHOLD!

ATTACK, DECEPTICONS!

SPARE NO ONE!

MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE CITY WALLS...

C'MON, ARCEE! WE GOTTA GET THIS ***LAUNCHER*** INTO PLACE! ***MEGATRON'S*** MAKING HIS ***BIG PUSH...***

...AND WE GOTTA ***PUSH BACK!***

KEEP AT IT, SPRINGER...

...HELP IS ***AT HAND!***

TOGETHER NOW!

KUP, HOT ROD, DANIEL—GLAD TO SEE YOU!

IF WE DIDN'T HAVE TO ***DETOUR*** AROUND MEGATRON, WE'D HAVE GOTTEN HERE ***SOONER!***

I WAS AFRAID YOU'D BE ***TRAPPED*** OUTSIDE THE CITY!

HEY, I WASN'T WORRIED FOR A ***MICROSECOND!***

THEN YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T ***UNDERSTAND*** THE SITUATION!

OH NO!

CONSTRUCTICONS—

—MERGE FOR THE KILL!

...SCRAPPER...

...BONECRUSHER...

...SCAVENGER...

...MIXMASTER...

...HOOK...

...AND *LONG HAUL* COMBINE TO FORM THE *ULTIMATE DECEPTICON DEATH-MACHINE*—

—DEVASTATOR!

PREPARE FOR EXTERMINATION, AUTOBOTS!

KRUNK

BUT INSIDE THE CITY, SPRINGER HAS OTHER IDEAS...

I GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO TONIGHT THAN DIE!

YET DESPITE THE AUTOBOTS' FIERCE DEFENSE OF THEIR CITY...

BAWOOM

...THE DECEPTICON ONSLAUGHT CONTINUES WITHOUT PAUSE.

DAY TURNS INTO NIGHT, AND THEN DAY AGAIN...

...UNTIL FINALLY...

THEIR DEFENSES ARE BROKEN!

LET THE SLAUGHTER BEGIN!

BUT JUST AT THAT MOMENT...

...AN AUTOBOT SPACE SHUTTLE SPEEDS TOWARD THE BESIEGED CITY...

AND INSIDE THE SHUTTLE...

DINOBOTS, DESTROY DEVASTATOR!

ME, *GRIMLOCK*, LOVE CHALLENGE!

AS GRIMLOCK LEADS THE WAY, THE DINOBOTS—

DINOBOTS TRANSFORM!

—JOIN THE BATTLE BELOW!

K-CHUNK

AND AS THE DINOBOTS USE THEIR MECHANICAL MUSCLE TO OVERPOWER DEVASTATOR...

...OPTIMUS PRIME ARRIVES IN AUTOBOT CITY...

MEGATRON MUST BE *STOPPED!*

NO MATTER THE COST!

VWOOOM

BWONK! KRUNK!

KPOW KPOW KPOW

PRIME!

ONE SHALL *STAND*... ONE SHALL *FALL!*

WHY THROW AWAY YOUR *LIFE* SO RECKLESSLY?

THAT'S A QUESTION YOU SHOULD ASK YOURSELF, MEGATRON!

NO! I'LL *CRUSH* YOU WITH MY *BARE HANDS!*

KRUNK

WONK

THUNK

I'LL RIP OUT YOUR OPTICS!

I DON'T THINK SO!

KA-RASH

ONE LAST CHANCE... TO SNATCH VICTORY... FROM DEFEAT...

NO MORE, OPTIMUS PRIME... GRANT ME *MERCY!*

I BEG OF YOU!

YOU WHO ARE WITHOUT MERCY NOW PLEAD FOR IT?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE MADE OF STERNER STUFF, MEGATRON!

I AM!

NO YOU DON'T, MEGATRON!

OUT OF THE WAY, HOT ROD!

BUT BEFORE HOT ROD CAN MOVE...

...MEGATRON TAKES DEADLY ADVANTAGE OF THE YOUNG AUTOBOT'S IMPULSIVE ACTIONS...

PWOOOM

NOOO!!!

FALL, OPTIMUS PRIME! FALL!

I WOULD HAVE WAITED AN *ETERNITY* FOR THIS!

IT'S OVER, PRIME.

NEVER!

WOMP

BWONK

OPTIMUS... FORGIVE ME.

HOW DO YOU *FEEL*, MIGHTY MEGATRON?

KLUNK

ASTROTRAIN, TRANSFORM AND GET US OUT OF HERE!

DON'T... LEAVE ME... SOUNDWAVE...

AS YOU COMMAND, MEGATRON.

MOMENTS LATER...

THE DECEPTICONS ARE RETREATING!

PRIME DID IT! HE *TURNED THE TIDE!*

BUT THE GLOW OF VICTORY QUICKLY FADES...

...IN THE SHADOWED CONFINES OF AUTOBOT CITY'S MEDICAL CENTER, WHERE THE AUTOBOTS NOW GATHER...

I FEAR THE WOUNDS ARE... *FATAL.*

PRIME... YOU *CAN'T DIE!*

DO NOT... GRIEVE FOR ME, DANIEL...

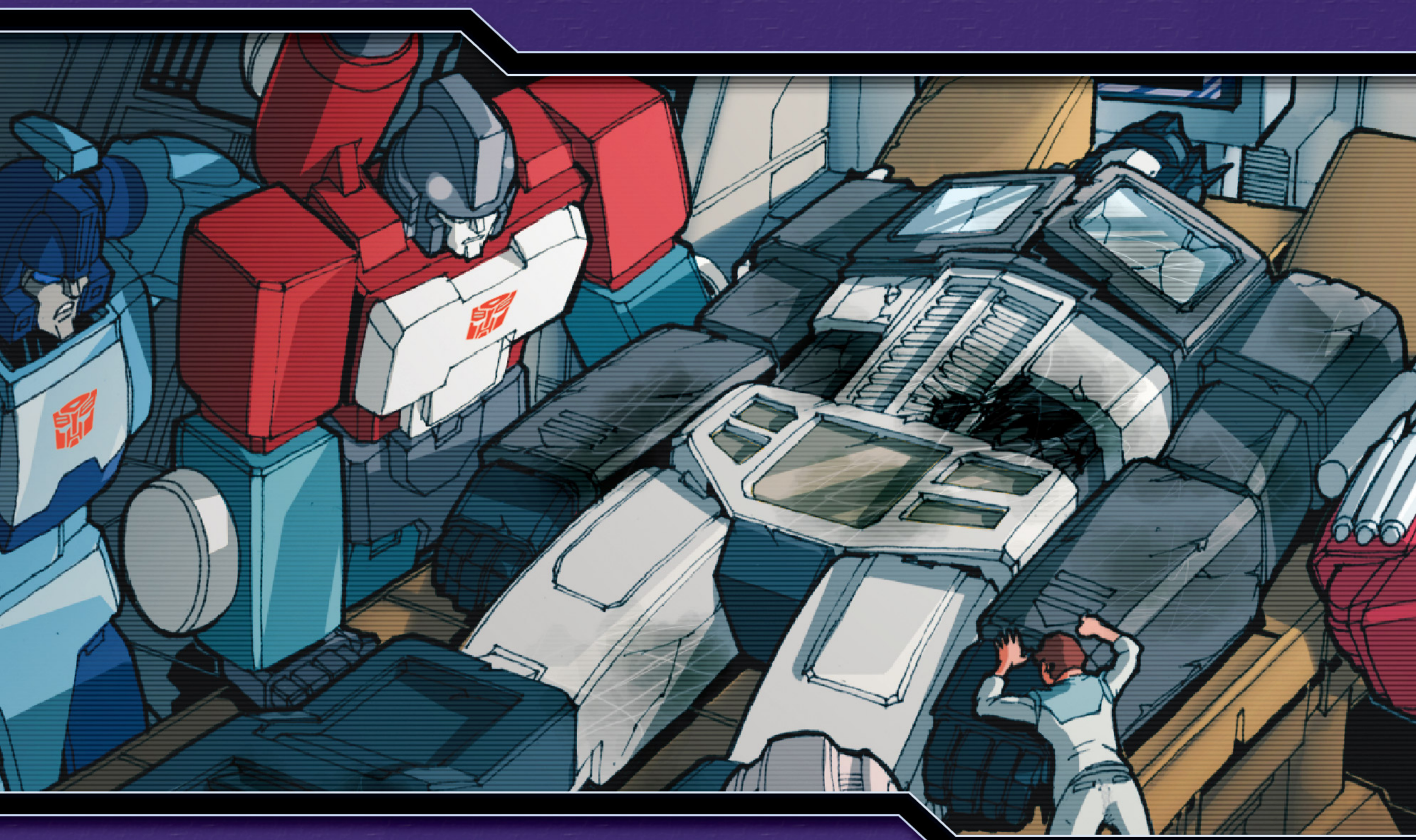
...SOON... I SHALL BE...

...ONE WITH THE MATRIX!

NEXT ISSUE:

IS THIS THE END OF OPTIMUS PRIME?!

UNICRON RETURNS! (REMEMBER HIM?)



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WIN THE BATTLE...

...BUT LOSE THE REASON FOR WHICH YOU FOUGHT?

YOUNG ***DANIEL WITWICKY*** KNOWS THE ANSWER ALL TOO WELL...

...FOR AFTER TURNING BACK A BRUTAL ***DECEPTICON*** ASSAULT ON ***AUTOBOT CITY***, THEIR HEADQUARTERS ON EARTH, THE ***AUTOBOTS*** AND DANIEL MUST NOW FACE A DANGEROUS, UNCERTAIN FUTURE...

...WITHOUT THE ONE WHO LED THEM TO VICTORY—

—OPTIMUS PRIME!

ULTRA MAGNUS... IT IS TO YOU, OLD FRIEND...

...I SHALL PASS ***THE MATRIX OF LEADERSHIP...***

...AS IT WAS PASSED TO ME.

BUT PRIME... I AM JUST A SOLDIER. I-I'M NOT WORTHY.

NOR WAS I. BUT ONE DAY...

...AN *AUTOBOT* SHALL RISE FROM OUR RANKS...

...AND USE *THE POWER OF THE MATRIX*...

...TO *LIGHT* OUR DARKEST HOUR.

UNTIL THE DAY... 'TIL ALL... ARE ONE.

FOR YOU, ULTRA MAGNUS.

THANK YOU, *HOT ROD*.

LOOK!

AND SO, IN THE TIME IN TAKES FOR A FLASH OF LIGHT...

...TO FLICKER...

...AND FADE...

...THE GREAT AUTOBOT LEADER, OPTIMUS PRIME, ***DIES***.

THOSE ASSEMBLED ***MOURN*** HIS PASSING...

...***UNAWARE*** THAT THEY ARE NOT THE ONLY WITNESSES TO HIS DEATH.

FAR AWAY, THE PLANET-DEVOURING METALLIC MENACE KNOWN AS ***UNICRON***...

...USES HIS IMMENSE POWER TO TAP INTO AUTOBOT CITY'S VIDEO MONITORS, AND SPY ON THE SAD PROCEEDINGS WITHIN.

AND WHAT HE SEES DOES NOT MAKE HIM HAPPY.

RAARRRR!

MEANWHILE, THE DECEPTICON SURVIVORS OF THE BATTLE OF AUTOBOT CITY FLEE FROM EARTH...

JETTISON SOME WEIGHT OR I'LL NEVER MAKE IT HOME TO ***CYBERTRON***!

FELLOW DECEPTICONS, ***ASTROTRAIN*** HAS REQUESTED THAT WE ***LIGHTEN*** OUR BURDEN!

IN THAT CASE, ***STARSCREAM***, I SAY IT IS SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST!

DO I HEAR A SECOND TO ***BONECRUSHER'S*** REQUEST?

AYE!

THE "AYES" HAVE IT!

REMOVE THE WRECKS!

NOO!

AW, HOW IT ***PAINS*** ME TO ***DO*** THIS, ***MEGATRON***.

WAIT—I STILL FUNCTION!

WANNA BET?

STARSCREEEEEEEAM...

*STARSCREAM IS REFERRING TO THOSE DECEPTICONS WOUNDED IN THE BATTLE OF AUTOBOT CITY, AS SEEN LAST ISSUE.

WELL, AS MEGATRON HAS, HOW SHALL WE SAY, *DEPARTED*...

...I NOMINATE *MYSELF* AS THE *NEW LEADER!*

WAIT! WE *CONSTRUCTICONS* FORM *DEVASTATOR*—

—THE MOST *POWERFUL* ROBOT!

WE SHOULD RULE!

SOUNDWAVE SUPERIOR. *CONSTRUCTICONS* INFERIOR.

WHO ARE YOU CALLING *INFERIOR*?!

NO ONE WOULD FOLLOW AN UNCHARISMATIC BORE LIKE YOU.

NOBODY CALLS SOUNDWAVE "UN*CRAZ*IMATIC."

YEAH, LET'S KICK TAILGATE!

CONSTRUCTICONS UNITE!

NO WAY!

MEANWHILE, ALTHOUGH THE DECEPTICONS' *FORMER* LEADER IS *GONE*...

...HE IS NOT YET *FORGOTTEN*...

WELCOME, MEGATRON...

WHO... SAID THAT?

I... AM *UNICRON!**

SHOW YOURSELF!

I HAVE SUMMONED YOU HERE FOR A PURPOSE!

NOBODY SUMMONS MEGATRON!

THEN IT PLEASES ME TO BE THE FIRST!

STATE YOUR BUSINESS.

THIS IS MY COMMAND—YOU ARE TO *DESTROY* THE AUTOBOT MATRIX OF LEADERSHIP! IT IS THE ONE THING—THE *ONLY* THING—THAT CAN STAND IN MY WAY!

BUT I HAVE ALREADY *CRUSHED* OPTIMUS PRIME! *THE MATRIX DIED WITH HIM!*

NO. THE MATRIX HAS BEEN PASSED ON TO THEIR *NEW* LEADER—ULTRA MAGNUS! *DESTROY IT FOR ME...*

...OR BE DESTROYED YOURSELF!

NOOO! I ACCEPT YOUR TERMS!

*AS SEEN LAST ISSUE, THE PLANET-SIZED UNICRON JOURNEYS THROUGH SPACE, LOOKING FOR PLANETS TO CONSUME.

EXCELLENT!

I SHALL PROVIDE YOU WITH A NEW BODY, AND NEW TROOPS TO COMMAND.

BEHOLD— *GALVATRON!*

AND THESE SHALL BE YOUR MINIONS—

SCOURGE, THE TRACKER...

...AND HIS HUNTSMEN—*THE SWEEPS!*

CYCLONUS— THE WARRIOR...

...AND HIS *ARMADA!*

AND THIS SHALL BE YOUR SHIP!

NOW GO!

DESTROY THE MATRIX!

LATER ON *CYBERTRON*, HOME PLANET OF THE TRANSFORMERS, MEGATRON'S SUCCESSOR HAS FINALLY BEEN CHOSEN...

YOUR *CROWN*, MY LORD STARSCREAM!

MY FELLOW DECEPTICONS— AS YOUR *NEW* LEADER, I—

WHO DISRUPTS MY CORONATION?!

KROM

MEGATRON— IS THAT YOU?!

CORONATION, STARSCREAM?

HERE'S A HINT!

SKREEEEE

bOK

bOK

bOK

KRUNK

AND MY NAME IS NOW *GALVATRON!*

LONG LIVE GALVATRON!

MEANWHILE, UNICRON APPROACHES THE AUTOBOT FORTRESS ORBITING CYBERTRON KNOW AS ***MOONBASE 1***...

WHERE'D ***THAT*** COME FROM, ***CLIFFJUMPER?!***

WHO CARES, ***JAZZ?*** I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT ***WHERE IT'S GOING!***

TALK TO ME, EARTH! WE GOT A SITUATION OUT HERE!

I'M PICKING UP A FAINT SIGNAL!

BLASTER— IS THAT YOU? THIS IS JAZZ! A GI-NORMOUS PLANET...

...IS ATTACKING MOONBASE 1!

GOT TO BLAST FREE IF WE CAN!

IGNITION!

JAZZ—WE'RE NOT GETTING AWAY!

VAWOOM

WUNK

THIS IS SPIKE AND BUMBLEBEE UP HERE ON MOONBASE 2!

THIS—THING, THIS MONSTER PLANET JUST RIPPED THE FIRST MOON TO SHREDS!

AND IT'S HEADING THIS WAY!

WE'LL TRY AND SLOW IT DOWN—

BUT YOU'D BETTER GET HERE FAST BECAUSE...

DAD!

BUT THERE IS NO RESPONSE FROM MOONBASE 2...

...ONLY DEAD SILENCE.

HOW *DARE* UNICRON! CYBERTRON AND ALL ITS MOONS BELONG TO *ME!*

ARRRGGH!

REMEMBER— WE BELONG TO UNICRON!

I... BELONG... *TO NOBODY!*

AGKK!

I WILL OBEY... UNICRON!

DECEPTICONS— *TO EARTH!*

LATER, ON EARTH...

AUTOBOTS, PREPARE TO BOARD THE SHUTTLES. THIS NEW MENACE IS ***MORE DANGEROUS*** THAN ALL THE DECEPTICONS PUT TOGETHER!

SOMEHOW WE MUST ***DESTROY*** IT BEFORE IT DEVOURS CYBERTRON!

BUT WHAT ABOUT MY DAD?

DANIEL, WE'LL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN FOR SPIKE!

MAYBE THE MATRIX CAN STOP THIS MENACE.

YOU'RE RIGHT— IT CAN!

I'VE JUST GOT THIS FEELING, ***KUP.***

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IT, HOT ROD?

LOOK! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

AUTOBOTS— TO THE SHUTTLES!

ZWEEE ZWEEE ZWEEE

I, GALVATRON, WILL CRUSH YOU JUST AS MEGATRON CRUSHED PRIME!

AND YOU'LL DIE TRYING, JUST LIKE MEGATRON!

AUTOBOT SCRAP!

DO YOU WANT ME TO GUT ULTRA MAGNUS?

ULTRA MAGNUS IS MINE!

STAY CLOSE TO ME, DANIEL!

AND *YOU* BETTER STAY CLOSE TO *ME, ARCEE!*

PTOO PTOO PTOO PTOO

BAWOOM

NO, *YOU* BETTER STAY CLOSE TO *ME!*

KUP, HOT ROD—GET THOSE *DINOBOTS* ABOARD THAT SHUTTLE AND *GET OUT OF HERE!*

COME ON, YOU BIG BOZO—*GET IN THE SHUTTLE!*

VROOOOM

MEANWHILE, IN THE SECOND SHUTTLE...

WAIT, ULTRA MAGNUS—*ARCEE'S STILL OUT THERE!*

JUMP!

THANKS, *SPRINGER!*

AND SO, WITH ARCEE SAFELY ABOARD, THE AUTOBOTS ESCAPE THE DECEPTICONS...

...AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT...

CONGRATULATIONS, AUTOBOTS—WE'VE LOST THEM! REST WHILE YOU CAN.

KUP, TELL *GRIMLOCK* STORY ABOUT PETRO-RABBITS AGAIN!

SURE.

HEY, DON'T YOU THINK WE HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO NOW THEN TELL OLD STORIES—

—LIKE FIGURE OUT A WAY TO RESCUE OUR FRIENDS... AND *SAVE CYBERTRON!*

GOOD POINT, HOT ROD—*THE DECEPTICONS JUST STARTED SHOOTING AT US!*

ANY IDEA OF WHAT TO *DO* ABOUT IT, KUP?

OH YEAH, I REMEMBER—*INVERT POLARITIES!*

BAWOOOM

CYCLONUS— TRANSFORM AND ATTACK!

MY PLEASURE, GALVATRON!

cHOOM

I CAN'T CONTROL IT!

WE'RE GONNA CRASH!

KRUCK

AND IN THE OTHER SHUTTLE...

KUP AND HOT ROD JUST BOUGHT IT!

I CAN'T DEAL WITH THAT NOW—WE HAVE OUR OWN PROBLEMS!

THE DECEPTICONS ARE GONNA DOG US UNTIL THEY SEE US DEAD.

THEN THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO SEE!

PREPARE FOR EMERGENCY SEPARATION!

THWOOM

THE AUTOBOTS HAVE BEEN *TERMINATED!*

EXCELLENT! AND *THE MATRIX* WITH THEM!

ARRGHH!

UNICRON—WHY?!

CYCLONUS... TAKE ME TO UNICRON—*NOW!*

MEANWHILE...

DID WE HAVE TO LET THE DECEPTICONS DETONATE *THREE QUARTERS* OF THE SHIP?

SEEING AS HOW THEY WOULD HAVE DETONATED *FOUR* QUARTERS, I THINK IT WAS A GOOD CHOICE!

BUT HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET ANYWHERE IN *THIS* WRECK?

PERCEPTOR—CAN YOU LOCATE A PLACE TO SET DOWN FOR REPAIRS?

YES, I BELIEVE I CAN—THE *PLANET OF JUNK* IS IN THIS VICINITY!

THEN LET'S GO FOR IT!

VREEOOM

BUT EVEN AS ONE SHUTTLE—FULL OF AUTOBOTS FLIES OFF...

...THE OTHER AUTOBOT SHUTTLE DISINTEGRATES, AND ITS PASSENGERS FIND THEMSELVES IN AN UNCONTROLLABLE ***FREE-FALL***...

...WITH AT LEAST ***ONE*** OF THEM...

...ABOUT TO MEET HIS ***FATE*** WITHIN THE ***WATERY DEPTHS*** OF THE WORLD BELOW!

MINUTES AGO, THE AUTOBOT ***HOT ROD*** WITHSTOOD A DECEPTICON SURPRISE ATTACK, ESCAPED THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS SPACE SHUTTLE, AND SURVIVED A PRECIPITOUS PLUNGE TO THE SURFACE OF AN UNKNOWN PLANET...

...ONLY TO WAKE UP NOW, AT THE BOTTOM OF AN OCEAN...

...IN EVEN ***MORE*** TROUBLE THAN BEFORE!

KUP! GRIMLOCK! SLAG!

ANYBODY!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE REST OF THE AUTOBOTS FROM THE SHUTTLE LANDED...

WHIRRR

...BUT I'LL *NEVER* FIND OUT IF I STAY HERE!

WHIRRR

NO FREE LUNCH TODAY, FISHIES!

WHIRRR

CHUNKWRUNK

HOT ROD— *HELP ME!*

KUP!

DOM

KUP!

HELP!

LET GO OF MY FRIEND!

PLOO

AND THE SAME...

PLOO

...GOES...

PLOO

KRUNK

...FOR *ME*!

CHWOOM

KUP—TALK TO ME!

FIX ME!

SURE, KUP—RIGHT AWAY!

ELSEWHERE, ANOTHER SHUTTLE FULL OF AUTOBOTS STRUGGLE TO REMAIN ALIVE...

BRACE FOR IMPACT!

KERRUNNK

SAY SOMETHING—ANYBODY!

REMIND ME TO GIVE THE AUTOPILOT A RAISE, *ULTRA MAGNUS.*

DANIEL—?

I—I'M OKAY, *ARCEE.*

LET'S TRY TO SALVAGE THIS THING.

CAN I HELP, TOO?

IT'S ROUGH OUT THERE, KID.

SPRINGER, I THINK DANIEL CAN MAKE HIMSELF HELPFUL WITH THIS—IT WAS HIS FATHER SPIKE'S EXO-SUIT!

DAD'S EXO-SUIT—HE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT!

COME ON! WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

WHOA! THIS MUST BE THE JUNK CAPITAL OF THE UNIVERSE!

BUT BEFORE THE AUTOBOTS CAN START REPAIRING THEIR SHUTTLE...

STOP, THIEF! NO WELCOME WAGON, "HELLO STRANGER," WITH THAT GOOD COFFEE FLAVOR FOR YOU!

NO MONEY BACK!

OFFER EXPIRES WHILE YOU WAIT! OPERATORS ARE STANDING BY!

MEANWHILE...

WELL—WHAT DO YOU THINK?

OF ALL THE CIRCUIT-GLITCHED, DIODE-BLOWIN' DIM-WITTERY—*YOU LEFT A PIECE OUT!*

NO WAY! YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE ***STIFF***!

ANYWAY, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, YOU DID AN AMAZING JOB OF REPAIRING ME, LAD!

NOW, LET'S FIND THE DINOBOTS AND GET ***OFF*** THIS TWISTED PLANET!

VRRMMM

SKRRRR

END OF THE ROAD!

WHAT ARE *THOSE*?!

DON'T ACT HOSTILE—I'LL USE THE *UNIVERAL GREETING*!

UNIVERSAL GREETING?

WATCH—I'LL HAVE THEM EATING OUT OF MY HAND.

BAH-WEEP-GRA AAGNAH WHEEP NI-NI BONG!

BAH-WEEP-GRA AAGNAH WHEEP NI-NI BONG!

SEE? THE UNIVERSAL GREETING WORKS EVERY TIME!

NOW, WITHOUT MAKING ANY SUDDEN MOVES, LET'S OFFER THEM AN *ENERGON* GOODIE!

THEY'LL RECIPROCATE.

I THOUGHT THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO RECIPROCATE.

NO MORE!

GRAARGH!

...BUT THEIR DIRE SITUATION DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED...

IN MOMENTS, THE TWO AUTOBOTS FALL BEFORE THE FEROCIOUS ASSAULT...

MINUTES LATER...

REMINDS ME OF THE NITER SLAVE MINES OF GOLGONATH SEVEN...

EXPERIENCE, LAD. YOU SHOULD LEARN TO ***APPRECIATE*** IT!

EVERY PLACE REMINDS YOU OF SOMEPLACE ELSE.

A LOT OF GOOD IT'S DONE US SO FAR!

HEY—WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE?

HAS THE ***IMPERIAL MAGISTRATE*** REACHED A VERDICT?

I HAVE.

GUILTY OR INNOCENT?

INNOCENT!

FEED HIM TO THE ***SHARKTICONS!***

AIIIEEEE!

SPLEEESH

SPLISH

WE'VE *GOT* TO GET A NEW TRAVEL AGENT!

WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE?

THIS IS THE WORLD OF THE SAVAGE *SHARKTICONS* AND THEIR CRUEL MASTERS, THE *QUINTESSONS*.

I AM *KRANIX*.

THE QUINTESSONS CAPTURED ME AND BROUGHT ME HERE...

...AFTER MY PLANET WAS DESTROYED BY *UNICRON*.

UNICRON... WHO'S UNICRON?

A PLANET... THAT DEVOURS *EVERYTHING* IN ITS PATH!

SO *THAT'S* THE MONSTER'S NAME!

UNICRON MUST BE THE ONE WHO *ATE* OUR MOON BASES ORBITING *CYBERTRON*!

SUDDENLY...

THAT ONE!

HELP! *PLEASE!* I'M THE LAST SURVIVOR OF MY PLANET!

KRZZZTT

YEAARRGH!

SOON YOU TWO SHALL RECEIVE *YOUR* SENTENCE.

HAS THE IMPERIAL MAGISTRATE REACHED A VERDICT?

I HAVE.

GUILTY OR INNOCENT?

SPARE ME THIS MOCKERY OF JUSTICE!

I REPEAT, GUILTY OR INNOCENT?

INNOCENT!

NOOOOOO!

NOT THE END I'D WISH FOR, LAD.

NEARBY, THE *DINOBOTS* WANDER THE DESERTED STREETS OF THE QUINTESSONS' WORLD...

ME *SWOOP*, NO SEE NOTHING!

ME *GRIMLOCK*, POSITIVE HOT ROD AND KUP CLOSE!

ME *SLAG*, SAY YOU FULL OF BERYLLIUM BALONEY!

FRIENDS FIND, LOOK BEHIND!

WHO SAY THAT?

GO WRONG WAY! YOU FOOL, I SAY!

ME GRIMLOCK, FOOL!

ME GRIMLOCK, NO LIKE YOU!

SWAK

PSHOWW

OWW!

WHY BOY HIT MY NOSE?

WHEELIE SAY, FIND FRIENDS TODAY!

AND AS WHEELIE BRINGS THE DINOBOTS TO THEIR FELLOW AUTOBOTS...

...SOMEWHERE IN OUTER SPACE, UNICRON BRINGS BEFORE HIM ***GALVATRON***—THE DECEPTICON HE CREATED FROM THE WRECKAGE OF ***MEGATRON*** TO EXECUTE HIS SINISTER PLANS...

UNICRON! WHY DID YOU ***TORTURE*** ME?

YOU HAVE ***FAILED!***

NO, UNICRON!

ULTRA MAGNUS IS ***DEAD!*** AND THE MATRIX— ***DESTROYED!***

THE MATRIX... HAS NOT BEEN DESTROYED. AND ULTRA MAGNUS LIVES...

...ON THE PLANET OF JUNK!

THE MATRIX IS THE ONE POWER IN THE UNIVERSE... THAT CAN THREATEN ME.

STALK ULTRA MAGNUS! TEAR HIM APART!

AND DESTROY THE MATRIX!

BLURR, BE SURE THE FITTINGS ARE SECURELY WELDED.

ABSOLUTELY-POSITIVELY, I-WOULDN'T-DO-IT-ANY-OTHER-WAY, PERCEPTOR!

WHOA! THIS EXO-SUIT IS FANTASTIC!

DECEPTICONS!

WE'VE GOT TO DRAW THEM OFF AND DOUBLE BACK TO THE SHUTTLE!

BAWOOOM

THERE GOES THE SHUTTLE!

MOMENTS LATER, THE DECEPTICONS EMERGE FROM THEIR SHIPS...

HUMAN GERM!

TRANSFORM!

BWONK KRUNK

YEAHH!

THERE THEY ARE! *DECEPTICONS—ATTACK!*

MAKE A BREAK FOR COVER—I'LL TRY TO UNLEASH THE POWER OF THE MATRIX!

OPTIMUS PRIME... YOU SAID *THE MATRIX* WOULD LIGHT OUR DARKEST HOUR.

MAGNUS— I WANT THE MATRIX!

NEVER!

SWEEPS— EXTERMINATE HIM!

PSHOO

PSHOO

ARRRGH!

PSHOO

KATOOM

UNICRON— MY "MASTER"— WITH THIS...

...I SHALL MAKE YOU MY SLAVE!

RAAARRGH!

ON THE QUINTESSONS' PLANET...

BEFORE THE IMPERIAL MAGISTRATE DELIVERS A VERDICT, WOULD YOU LIKE TO ***BEG*** FOR YOUR LIVES?

IT SOMETIMES HELPS... BUT NOT OFTEN.

I CAN'T TRANSFORM!

KEEP TRYING!

SILENCE, OR YOU'LL BE HELD IN CONTEMPT OF THIS COURT!

I HAVE NOTHING ***BUT*** CONTEMPT FOR THIS COURT!

THE COURT FINDS THEM ***INNOCENT***!

THE BONDS ARE LOSE! QUICK, TRANSFORM.

WE'VE GOT MORE SHARKTICONS THEN WE'VE GOT PHOTON CHARGES!

THEN LET'S HOLD A ***DEMOLITION DERBY***!

VAROOOOOM

VAROOM

VAROOM

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE NOT DONE WITH US.

YOU GOT IT BACKWARDS, LAD...

...WE'RE NOT DONE WITH THEM!

SKREEE

BWUNK

KLUNK

HEH HEH HEH! DIDN'T EVEN BEND A FENDER!

YEAH, BUT *LOOK*—THERE ARE A LOT MORE OF THOSE CAM-DINGIN', GRILL-CRACKIN' THINGS!

PSHOO

WE CAN'T HOLD OUT FOREVER, KUP...

...BUT WE *CAN* GIVE THEM ONE HUMONGOUS REPAIR BILL!

BRAKKK

THOOM

EXECUTE THEM!

WOMP

AAKGH!

EXCUSE ME!

ME GRIMLOCK, WANT TO MUNCH METAL!

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE SO HAPPY TO SEE THOSE BIG BOZOS!

BUT WE STILL NEED A SHIP TO GET OFF THIS PLANET.

YOU GET SHIP IF I GET TRIP.

WHO ARE YOU?

HIM WHEELIE.

HIM *FRIEND*!

HE'LL BE *MY* FRIEND, TOO, IF HE CAN FIND US A SHIP.

JUST STARE OVER THERE!

ELSEWHERE, ON THE JUNK PLANET...

FIRST PRIME... NOW ULTRA MAGNUS!

WHAT WILL WE DO?

LOOK!

IT'S TIME TO PLAY "END OF THE LINE, MY VALENTINE!"

GER-RONNY-DOO-RON-RONNY-MOOOO!

WITH BARELY ENOUGH TIME TO TRANSFORM...

...THE AUTOBOTS FIND THEMSELVES FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIVES... AGAIN!

CATCHING ME IS THE EASY PART, *JUNKION*! NOW SEE IF YOU CAN HOLD ON!

I'M-GOING-FAST-BUT-NOT-FAST-ENOUGH—I'VE-GOT-TO-OUTRACE-THESE-TWO-TRASH-CANS-ON-WHEELS-IF-I'M-GOING-TO-SURVIVE!

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, SCRAPHEAP!

MUNK

THEY'RE INDESTRUCTIBLE!

AND THEY'RE *EVERYWHERE*!

YOU CHECK IN... BUT YOU DON'T CHECK OUT!

WHAT IS *THAT*?!

KER-WUNK

IT'S HOT ROD!

AND *KUP* AND THE *DINOBOTS*!

WHAT WAS THAT UNIVERSAL GREETING AGAIN, KUP?

NEVER MIND... I REMEMEMBER.

BAH-WEEP-GRAA AGNAH WHEEP NI-NI BONG!

DID *WRECK-GAR* HEAR *BAH-WEEP-GRAAAGNAH WHEEP NI-NI BONG*?

BAH-WEEP-GRAAAGNAH WHEEP NI-NI BONG!

HAVE A NICE DAY, AND PLEASE, CLOSE COVER BEFORE STRIKING, FRIENDS! BREEP DRIT, AW ROOTIE!

SO SAY *THE JUNKIONS*!

WHERE'D YOU LEARN TO TALK LIKE THAT, WRECK-GAR?

TV. WE TALK TV.

ABC's TV

I TALK TV—AND NOW THE NEWS, DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL!

BY GEORGE, KIMOSABES, YOUR SMASHED UP FRIEND LIKE NEW WITH NINETY-NINE DAY WARRANTY!

HAPPY MOTORING! COCK-A-DOODLE DO!

LOOK— *HE'S ALIVE!*

ULTRA MAGNUS, THE MATRIX...

IT'S GONE.

AND WITH IT... ALL HOPE.

MOMENTS AGO, ***AUTOBOT*** LEADER ***ULTRA MAGNUS*** RAISED HIS BATTERED BODY FROM THE RUBBLE OF THE PLANET OF THE ***JUNKIONS***.

NOW HE MUST FACE HIS FOLLOWERS...

...AND TELL THEM A GRIM TRUTH MORE PAINFUL THAN ANY ***DECEPTICON*** BLOW...

WHEN I NEEDED IT TO LIGHT OUR DARKEST HOUR... TO STOP THE DECEPTICON ATTACK...

...I COULD NOT HARNESS THE POWER OF ***THE MATRIX!***

AND NOW... IT IS GONE!

NO!

GALVATRON HAS IT, *HOT ROD*!

WHERE'S GALVATRON, ARCEE?

WHERE IS HE?!

AND THE ANSWER IS–*UNICRON*!

THEN WE'VE GOT TO *DESTROY* UNICRON, *WRECK-GAR**!

*WRECK-GAR IS THE ECCENTRIC LEADER OF THE JUNKIONS, INHABITANTS OF THE JUNK PLANET, WHO RECENTLY ALLIED HIMSELF WITH THE AUTOBOTS.

ACT NOW! DESTROY UNICRON!

KILL THE GRAND POOBAH! ELIMINATE THE TOUGHEST STAIN!

HURRY! HURRY! HURRY! SALE MUST END!

RUSH RIGHT ON DOWN AND TEST-DRIVE THE LATEST MODEL! NO OBLIGATION!

NEW, IMPROVED JUNKION PLANET IS SLEEK, SEXY IMPORT WITH TURBO HANDLING!

DO YOU SEE THAT, *KUP*?

KERRUNK!

THAT'S A NEW ONE EVEN FOR ME, HOT ROD!

YEAH, DESTROY UNICRON!

KILL THE GRAND POOBAH!

ELIMINATE EVEN THE TOUGHEST STAIN!

MOMENTS LATER, THE JUNKIONS' SHIP STREAKS INTO SPACE, SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH THE AUTOBOTS' SHIP*...

...IN SEARCH OF THE ENORMOUS, PLANET-EATING ORB KNOWN AS–

*THE SHIP FLOWN BY HOT ROD, KUP, AND THE DINOBOTS FROM THE PLANET QUINTESSON, AS SEEN LAST ISSUE.

UNICRON!

UNICRON, ANSWER ME!

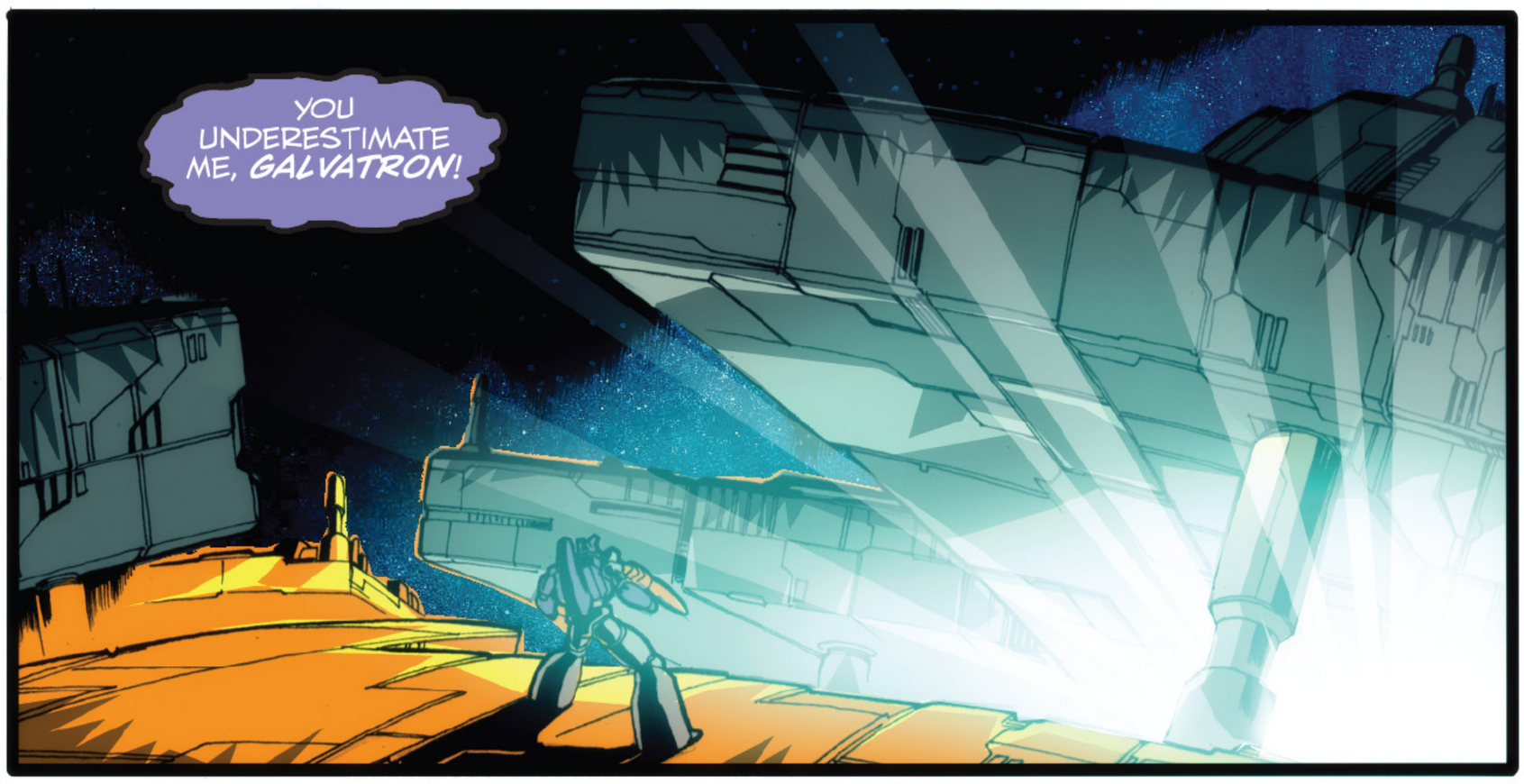
SEE THIS? *THE MATRIX!*

I NOW POSSESS THAT WHICH YOU MOST FEAR!

YOU WILL DO MY BIDDING OR TASTE MY WRATH!

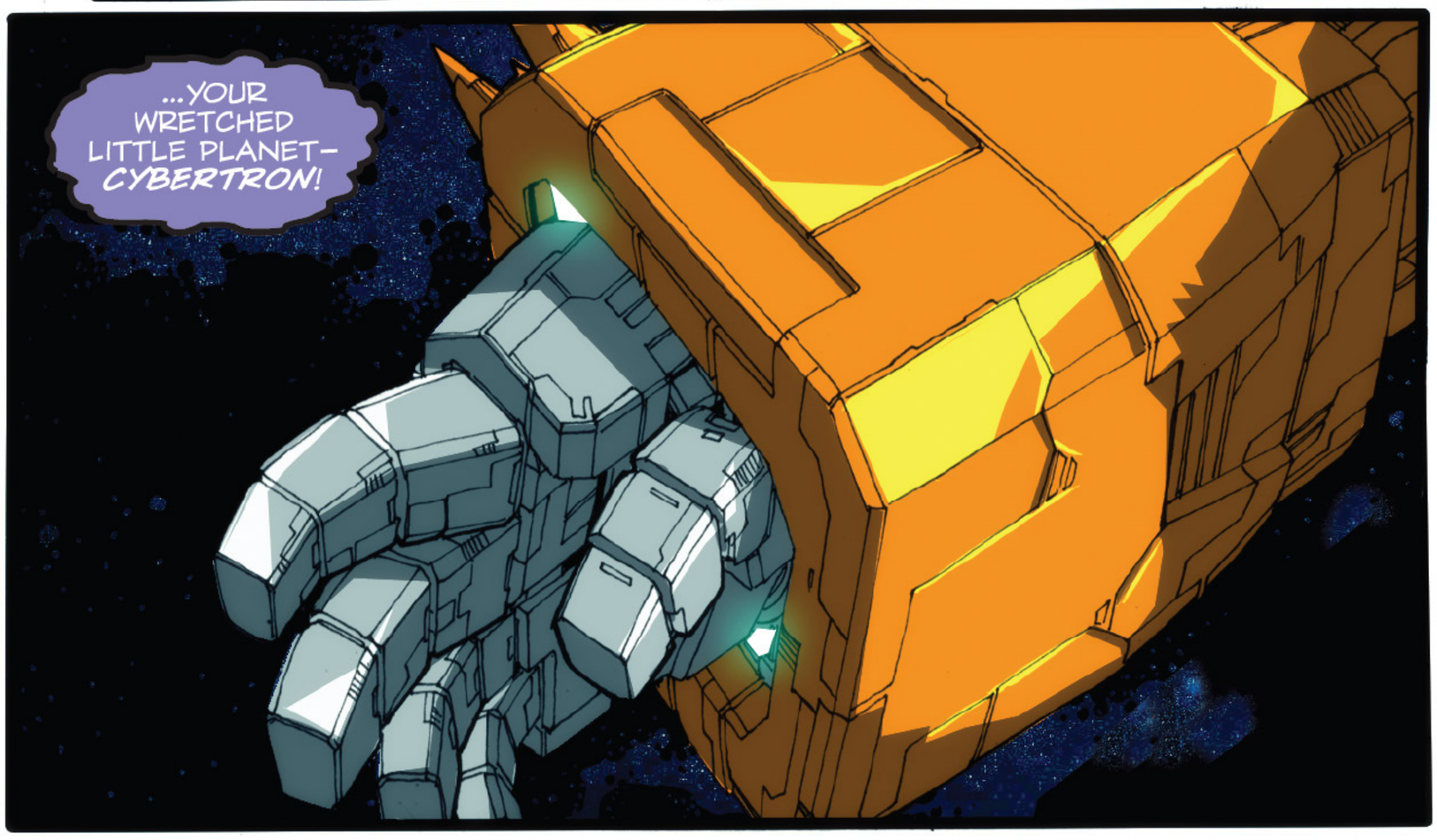
RAARRR!!!

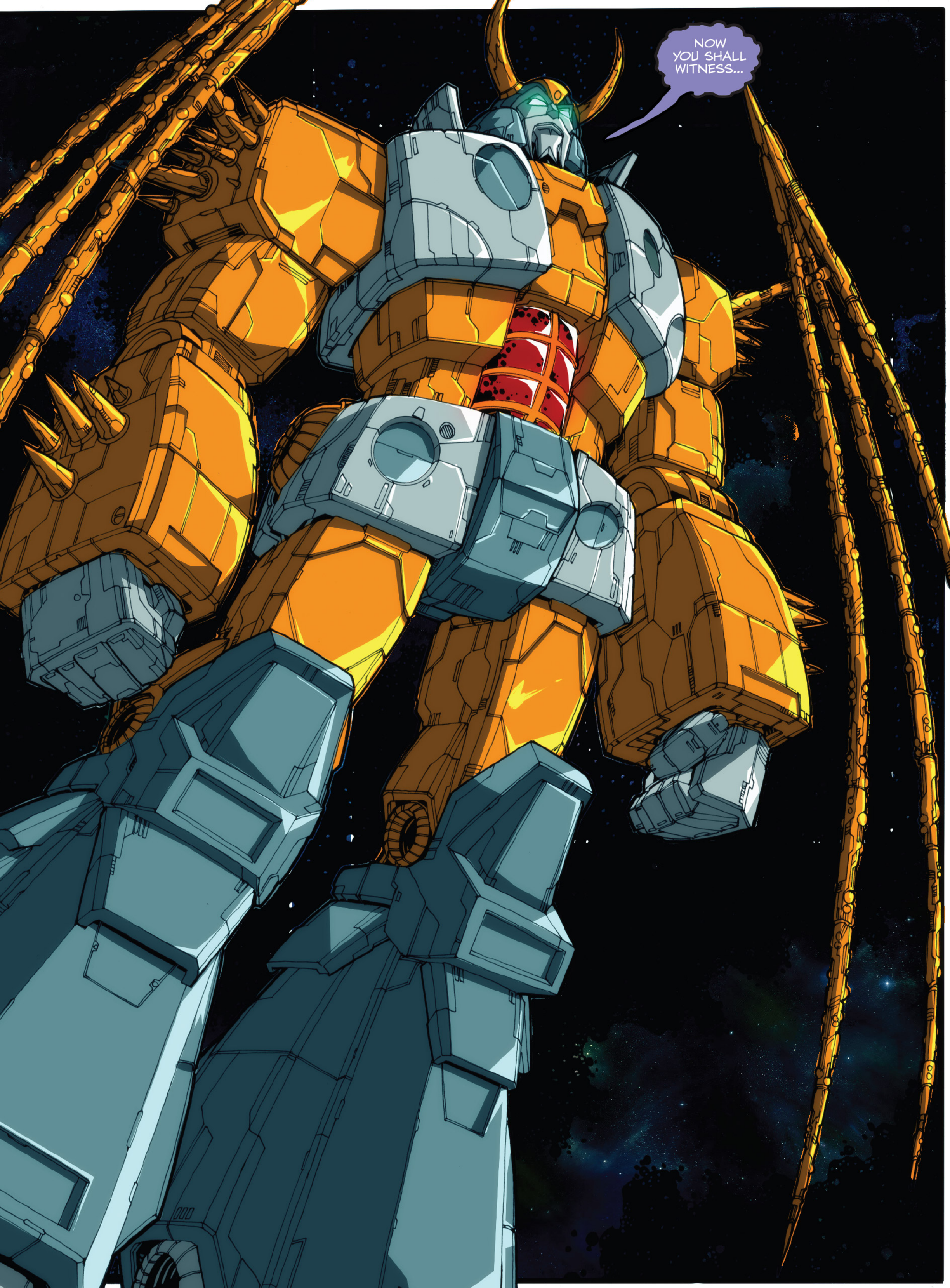
I–I CAN'T UNLEASH ITS POWER!


YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME, GALVATRON!

FOR A TIME...

...I CONSIDERED SPARING...


...YOUR WRETCHED LITTLE PLANET– CYBERTRON!


NOW YOU SHALL WITNESS...

...ITS DISMEMBERMENT!

NOOOO!

KERUNNK!

DECEPTICONS, WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

SCRAMBLE AND COUNTERATTACK!

BUT EVEN THOUGH **SHOCKWAVE** AND HIS FELLOW DECEPTICONS THROW THEIR COMBINED MIGHT AT UNICRON...

...THEY BARELY SLOW HIS SAVAGE ASSAULT.

THOSE BLUNDERING FOOLS!

BUT AT LEAST THEY'VE DISTRACTED UNICRON LONG ENOUGH...

...SO I CAN DO *THIS*!

PWOOM!

PWOOM!

I GAVE YOU *LIFE*, GALVATRON...*

*SEE TRANSFORMERS: THE ANIMATED MOVIE #2 FOR DETAILS.

...I CAN JUST AS EASILY *TAKE IT AWAY*!

NEARBY...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, *SPRINGER,* M'BOY!

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE *THIS* BEFORE!

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA FIND OUT, *DANIEL!*

WHAT HAPPENED TO MOON BASE 2?* *WHERE'S MY DAD?*

*AS LOYAL READERS CAN ATTEST, UNICRON ATE IT, ALONG WITH MOON BASE 1, BACK IN TRANSFORMERS: THE ANIMATED MOVIE #2.

FWOOSH

RESIST FIRE, RAIN, AND CORROSION FOR UP TO FIVE YEARS!

SATISFACTION, GUARANTEED...

...OR YOUR MONEY BAAACK!

BWAM!

HANG ON!

SKRAKK!

UHNN!

SPRINGER– WHERE'S HOT ROD?

I DON'T KNOW, DANIEL...

...BUT I HOPE THEY DIDN'T GET HIM!

QUICK! THIS WAY!

NEARBY...

OHH...

THOOM!

THE OTHERS CAN'T BE TOO FAR AWAY...

THE *MATRIX!*

IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD, AUTOBOT.

IT CANNOT BE OPENED.

NOT BY A DECEPTICON!

LIKE IT OR NOT, WE ARE ALLIES NOW AGAINST A COMMON FOE.

ARRGHH!

DESTROY HIM, GALVATRON, *NOW*—OR YOU YOURSELF SHALL BE *OBLITERATED!*

OF COURSE, MY... MASTER!

PUNY AUTOBOT— YOU LACK EVEN PRIME'S COURAGE!

PWOOM!

PWOOM!

OUTSIDE, THE *DINOBOTS* LAUNCH THEIR ATTACK...

ME *GRIMLOCK*, KICK BUTT!

KRUNCH!

WHUMM!

BWOOM!

FWOOSH!

BWOOM!

ME GRIMLOCK, NEED NEW STRATEGY!

INSIDE...

HELP!

DANIEL!

VREEP! VREEP!

WHOOSH

ARCEE! KUP!

MEANWHILE, AS THE BATTLE RAGES ON AROUND UNICRON, DEEP WITHIN HIM HIS *DIGESTIVE OPERATIONS* CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED...

NOOO!

...AS ONE BY ONE, CAPTIVES ARE DROPPED INTO A SEARING POOL OF *ACID*...

...AND BROKEN DOWN INTO THE RAW MATERIALS THAT *POWER* THE BRUTAL BEHEMOTH!

FINALLY GOT AWAY FROM THAT—

DAD!

DANIEL! KNOCK DOWN THE ACID COVER!

HOW?

BLAST IT, SON! USE YOUR EXO-SUIT! *HURRY!*

THUDOOM!

DANIEL, YOU DID IT!

YEAH—I DID IT!

ELSEWHERE...

COME OUT, AUTOBOT!

WE ALL MUST *DIE* SOMETIME!

BWONK!

NOT TODAY, GALVATRON!

OOF!

KRUNK!

PWOOM! PWOOM!

SKRREECH!

I WILL *CRUSH* YOU WITH MY *BARE HANDS!*

DIE, AUTOBOT!

MEANWHILE, ANOTHER BATTLE CONTINUES...

KERRUNK!

ASHES TO ASHES! JUNK TO JUNK!

INSIDE...

FIRST PRIME, THEN ULTRA MAGNUS— NOW *YOU*!

IT'S A PITY YOU AUTOBOTS DIE SO EASILY... OR I MIGHT HAVE A SENSE OF SATISFACTION NOW!

BRAKK!

ARISE, RODIMUS PRIME!

THE VOICE OF OPTIMUS!

THWOOM!

NO!

BAWOOM!

THIS IS THE END OF THE ROAD, GALVATRON!

UGH...

NOOO!

KRAKK!

NOW... LIGHT OUR DARKEST HOUR!

AT LAST IN THE HANDS OF A TRANSFORMER WORTHY OF IT'S POWER, THE MATRIX EXPLODES WITH AN ENERGY...

...NO WALLS CAN CONTAIN...

...NOT EVEN THE ARMORED FORTRESS KNOWN AS UNICRON!

SPIKE! DANIEL!

SPRINGER— WHAT'S GOING ON?

NO TIME TO ANSWER THAT! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

LOOK!

JUMP IN!

AUTOBOTS— TRANSFORM AND ROLL OUT!

KRAKK!

YOU... CANNOT... DESTROY... MY... DESTINY!

AND SO, A SHORT TIME LATER, WHEN THE AUTOBOTS AND THEIR ALLIES HAVE GATHERED ON THE SURFACE OF CYBERTRON...

LET THIS MARK THE END OF THE CYBERTRONIAN WARS...

...AS WE MARCH FORWARD TO A NEW AGE...

...OF PEACE AND HAPPINESS!

'TIL ALL ARE ONE!

'TIL ALL ARE ONE!

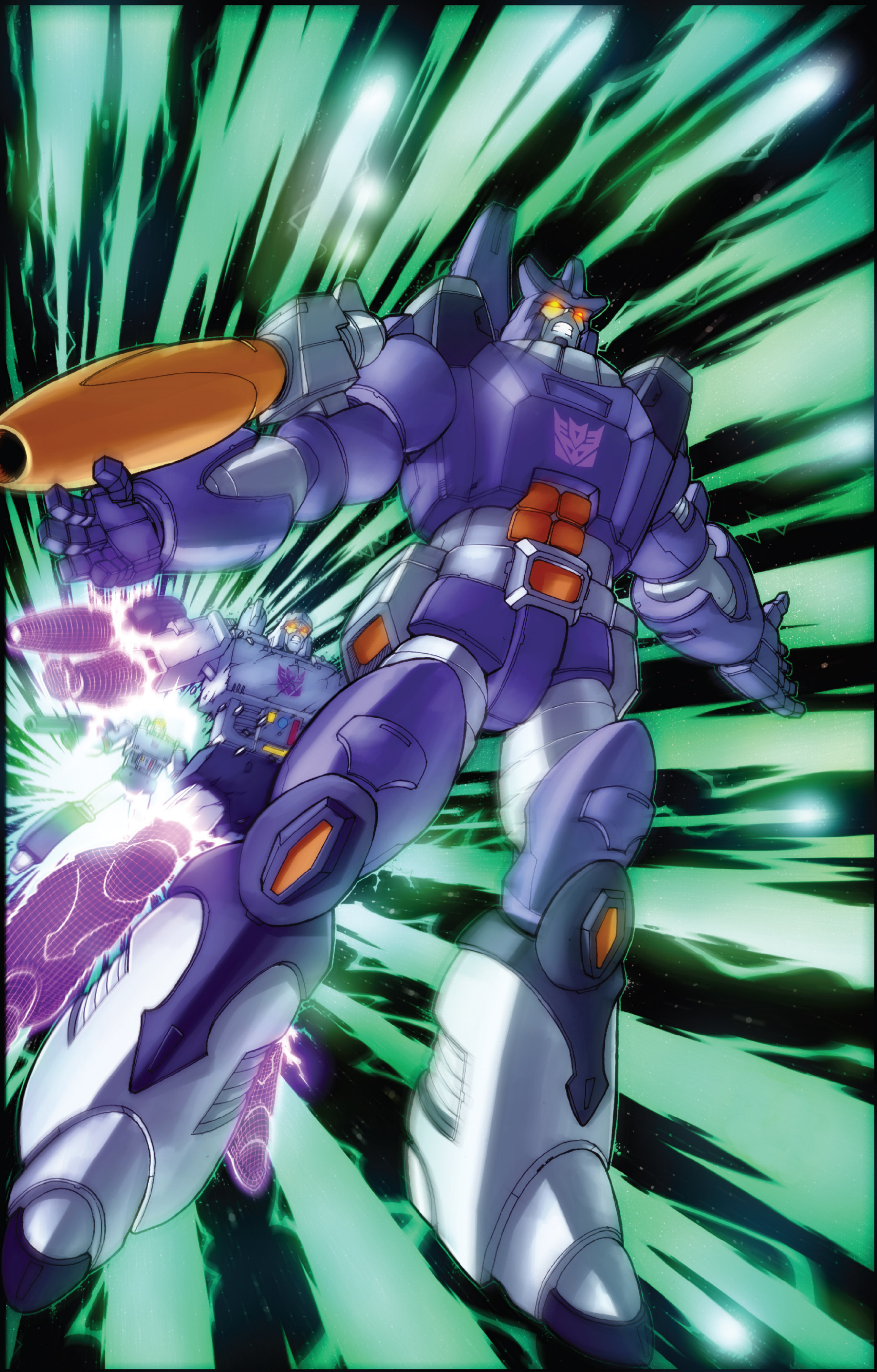
THE END.

TRANSFORMERS: THE ANIMATED MOVIE COVER GALLERY

ART BY DON FIGUEROA

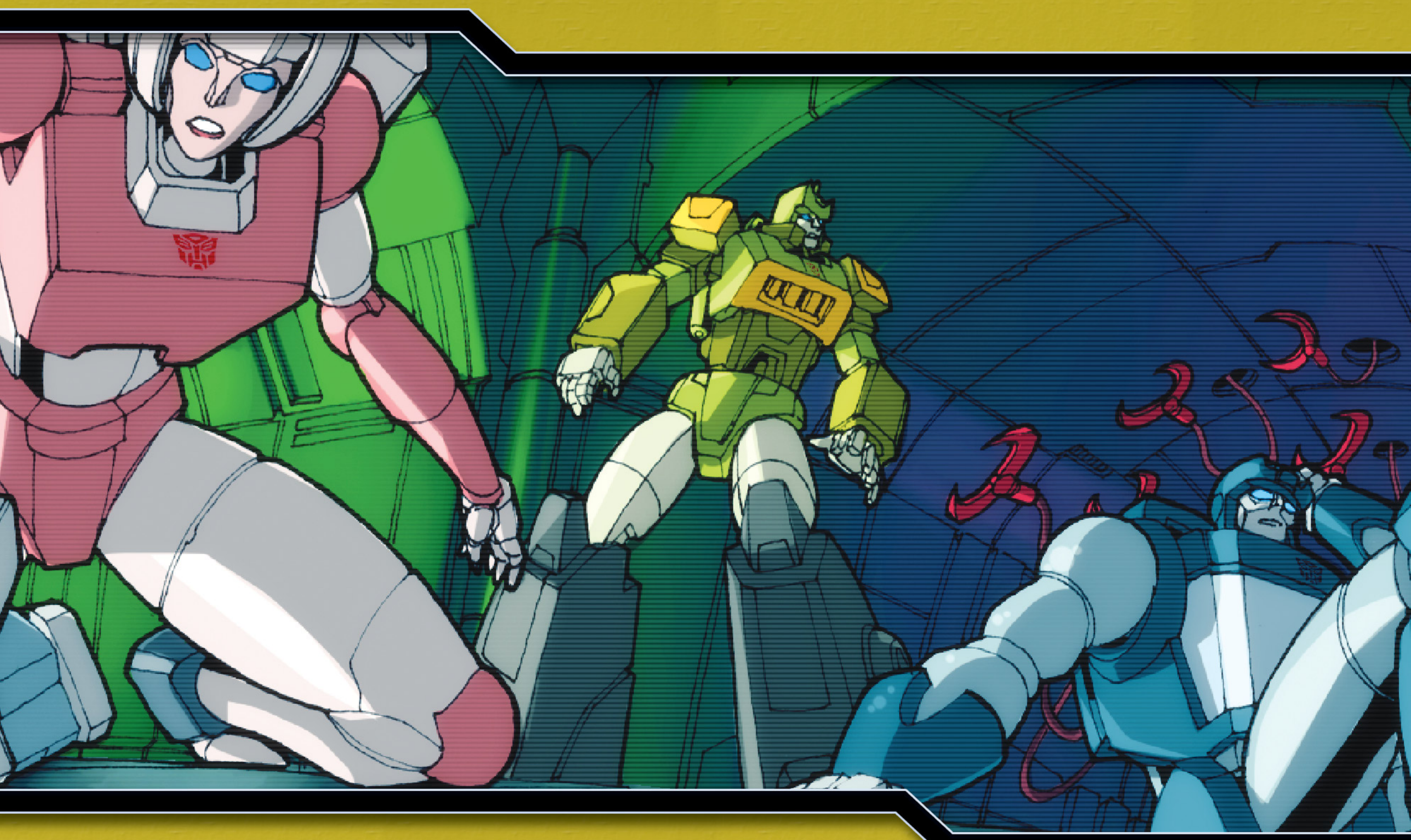
this page : Issue #1 Retailer Incentive Sketch Cover
facing page : Issue #1 Cover

this page : Issue #2 Retailer Incentive Sketch Cover
facing page : Issue #2 Cover



this page : Issue #3 Retailer Incentive Sketch Cover
facing page : Issue #3 Cover

this page : Issue #4 Retailer Incentive Sketch Cover
facing page : Issue #4 Cover



A BOLD NEW ERA

20 YEARS OF IDW

ISSUE 1

COVER A

RUCKLEY • HERNANDEZ • WHITMAN • LAFUENTE

TRANSFORMERS®

STORY SO FAR...

Before an endless war raged between the Autobots and the Decepticons.

Before Orion Pax took on the mantle of Optimus Prime.

Before Earth ever learned about the strange robotic alien beings from Cybertron—the Transformers—there was peace.

There was society.

There was wonder.

Join us now at the dawn of a bold new era...

>DRAMATIS PERSONAE>>>

>RUBBLE

>BUMBLEBEE

>WINDBLADE

>ORION PAX

>IRONHIDE

>MEGATRON

"YOUR LIFE IS YOURS TO SHAPE.

"IN DOING SO, YOU OWE NOTHING TO THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE YOU.

"BUT YOU OWE EVERY-THING TO THOSE AS YET UNFORGED.

"LET NO SHAPING OF YOURS LIMIT WHAT THEY, IN THEIR TURN, MIGHT BE AND ACHIEVE."

—TERMAGAX

WHAT A WORLD!

WHAT A WORLD TO BE *ALIVE* IN!

THE WORLD IN YOUR EYES
PART ONE

WE'LL NEVER GET THERE IF YOU STOP TO ADMIRE *EVERY* VIEW.

BUT HAVE YOU SEEN THIS, BUMBLEBEE? IT'S *AMAZING!*

YES, RUBBLE. I KNOW WHAT CYBERTRON LOOKS LIKE, *AND* THAT IT'S AMAZING.

NOW, COME ON.

COMING!

THANKS.

BRAINSTORM MIGHT NOT ALWAYS REMEMBER A NAME, BUT FAULTS—*THOSE* ARE ETCHED ONTO HIS MEMORY FOR ALL TIME. WITH ACID.

SO I'D SUGGEST WE TRY NOT TO BE *TOO* LATE.

I THOUGHT THE WHOLE POINT OF WALKING WAS SO I COULD SEE *ALL* THIS, THOUGH?

FIRST TIME OUT OF THE CITY AND ALL THAT.

SURE. AND I KNOW EVERY-THING'S A WONDER WHEN YOU'RE NEWLY FORGED, BUT YOU'VE GOT MEGACYCLES TO SEE IT ALL.

RIGHT NOW— *THIS* CYCLE—WE GET TO THE TRANSMISSION STATION AND BRAINSTORM INTRODUCES YOU TO THE WONDERS OF ENERGON ENGINEERING. LUCKY YOU.

ABSOLUTELY! JUST ONE LAST LOOK.

LET ME SEE WHAT'S OVER *THIS* SIDE!

REALLY? IS MY VOICE-BOX MALFUNCTIONING?

AM I TOO FAR AWAY FOR YOU TO *HEAR* ME OR SOMETHING?

IT'S BEAUTIFUL! WAIT—I THINK I SEE—

AH!

WONDERFUL.

OW.

AAAH!

UHHH... BUMBLEBEE?

HELLO? MY NAME'S RUBBLE.

CYBERTRONIAN.

OH. YES! YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

SMALL CYBERTRONIAN.

YOU THINK SO? I MEAN, I HAVEN'T MET ***EVERYONE*** YET, BUT I DON'T THINK I'M—

RUBBLE! ARE YOU OKAY?

VREEEESH

WOW.

VREEE CHANG

CRANK

KUNK

THUNK

YOU MUST BE RUBBLE. I'M ***WINDBLADE***, AND IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

YES.

I MEAN, YES, I'M RUBBLE.

THIS IS BUMBLEBEE. HE'S MY MENTOR.

OH, BUMBLEBEE AND I KNOW EACH OTHER WELL.

INTERESTING APPROACH TO MENTORING, TAKING TIME OUT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO ***VOIN*** SCAVENGERS.

NOT MY IDEA.

RUBBLE'S DEVOTED TO INTRODUCING ***HIMSELF*** TO AS MANY THINGS AS POSSIBLE.

ALIENS, TERRAIN, GRAVITY. EVERYTHING.

WELL, NEVER MIND THAT. YOU'RE GOING TO MEET BRAINSTORM AT A TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION, RIGHT?

TURNS OUT, I'M ON THE SAME FLIGHTPATH, SO I THOUGHT I'D DROP DOWN AND GO ALONG WITH YOU.

THIS IS GOING TO BE ***EXCELLENT!***

HE'S GREAT. VERY ENTHUSIASTIC.

YOU HAVE ***NO*** IDEA.

SO WHAT'S REALLY HAPPENING, 'BLADE? A MINOR ENERGON TRANSMISSION STATION'S AN UNUSUAL PLACE FOR SECURITY OPERATIONS TO BE VISITING.

BRAINSTORM REPORTED SOME ANOMALIES WITH THE MONITORING EQUIPMENT.

JUST POSSIBLE IT'S SABOTAGE.

THE RISE?

OUT HERE?

PROBABLY NOT, BUT I GET TO CHECK IT OUT, JUST IN CASE.

IF IT COMES TO IT, LET'S HOPE YOUR FRESH-FORGED FRIEND'S ENTHUSIASM CAN STAND A FEW DENTS.

TO TARN!

IN TERMAGAX'S NAME!

IN HER NAME!

ASCENTICONS TO TARN!

TO TARN? YOU ARE HEADING SOMEWHERE ***WORSE*** THAN THAT, I FEAR.

HE'S HERE, ORION.

AND IN WHAT SORT OF MOOD?

WELL, YOU REMEMBER THAT TIME PROWL WAS STUCK UNDER A COLLAPSED PYLON FOR TEN CYCLES?

I DO.

HALF HIS RESCUERS REQUESTED ESTEEM-REINFORCEMENT COUNSELING AFTERWARDS.

TWO OF THEM *STILL* CANNOT BE AROUND HIM WITHOUT THEIR JOINTS FREEZING.

EXACTLY. HE'S NOT QUITE GONE FULL PROWL, BUT HE'S NOT FAR OFF.

HE'D MUCH RATHER BE DOWN THERE, MARCHING TO TARN WITH HIS ADORING FOLLOWERS.

THEY CAN HAVE HIM BACK SOON ENOUGH, IRONHIDE.

YOU REALLY WANT ME TO LEAVE THE TWO OF YOU ON YOUR OWN?

OF COURSE. I DO NOT THINK WE HAVE FALLEN QUITE SO FAR THAT TWO SENATORS OF CYBERTRON—TWO OLD *FRIENDS*—CANNOT HAVE A CIVIL, AND SAFE, TALK.

ORION.

MEGATRON.

I DO NOT APPRECIATE BEING SUMMONED TO MEETINGS WITH SO LITTLE WARNING.

YOU WERE NOT ***SUMMONED***, MEGATRON.

YOU WERE ***INVITED*** TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS KNOWN YOU LONGER, AND BETTER, THAN ANYONE.

HOWEVER YOU CHOOSE TO DEFINE IT, THERE ARE OTHERS I WOULD ***RATHER*** BE WITH RIGHT NOW.

OTHER PLACES I HAVE TO GO.

COME. SIT. WHATEVER OUR DISAGREEMENTS, WE CAN STILL ***TALK***, CAN WE NOT?

I WILL STAND.

OH, VERY WELL. SO BE IT.

I WANTED TO ASK YOU IF YOU WOULD POSTPONE THIS SPEECH, OR RALLY, OR WHATEVER YOU WANT TO CALL IT, YOU HAVE PLANNED IN TARN.

I WILL NOT.

THE LAST ASCENTICON RALLY LEFT US WITH A DOZEN INJURED.

THE DAMAGE STILL HAS NOT BEEN FULLY REPAIRED.

YOU CANNOT WANT TO SEE THAT AGAIN, ANY MORE THAN I DO.

OF COURSE NOT. BUT THERE ARE A GREAT MANY THINGS I DO NOT WISH TO SEE AGAIN ON CYBERTRON, ORION.

SO LONG AS I AM FREE TO DO SO, AND OTHERS ARE FREE TO LISTEN, I WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLAIN THE CHANGES I BELIEVE ARE ***NECESSARY.***

NOBODY'S ***FREEDOM*** IS IN QUESTION, MEGATRON.

SAVE THE ***EXAGGERA-TIONS*** FOR A MORE RECEPTIVE AUDIENCE.

PERHAPS, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FRIENDSHIP, YOU COULD AT LEAST TELL ME WHAT SORT OF SPEECH YOU PLAN TO GIVE?

THE KIND I MERELY ***DISAGREE*** WITH, OR THE KIND THAT NEEDS ***SECURITY TEAMS*** ON THE GROUND BY THE TIME YOU HAVE FINISHED SPEAKING?

WE BOTH HOPE FOR THE FORMER, ORION. BUT I LEAVE QUESTIONS OF ***CONTROL*** TO YOU.

WE ASCENTICONS DO NOT HAVE AS MUCH EXPERIENCE IN THAT AS YOU AUTOBOTS.

THERE IS BARELY A CYCLE BETWEEN OUR FORGINGS, MEGATRON.

WE HAVE LIVED THROUGH THE SAME TIMES, SEEN THE SAME THINGS. ARE WE REALLY SO ***FAR*** APART?

WHAT DOES SHARED TIME MATTER, IF THE LIVES IT MEASURES ARE DIFFERENT?

NOBODY SEES THE SAME THINGS AS ANYBODY ELSE. NOBODY.

UM... SORRY.

TONK

NOT A SUCCESS?

PROWL UNDER A PYLON MORE OR LESS SUMS IT UP.

LOOK AT THIS!

LUMINESCENT LIQUID IN THE FABRIC OF CYBERTRON.

LIVING PLANET REMEMBER?

MAKES FINDING YOUR WAY IN THE DARK A BIT EASIER, I GUESS.

TIC

WE DON'T NEED LIGHTS IN THE GROUND FOR THAT!

WHOA.

CAN I HAVE SOME OF THOSE? THAT WOULD BE AMAZING!

WELL, THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING UNTIL YOU'VE SETTLED ON AN ALTERNATE MODE, IS THERE?

ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE.

WHICH IS WHY YOU TAKE THE TIME TO EXPLORE THOSE POSSIBILITIES WHEN YOU'RE NEWLY FORGED, LIKE YOU'RE DOING.

MEET EVERYONE YOU CAN, GET A FEEL FOR ALL THE ROLES YOU MIGHT HAVE. DISCOVER WHAT MIGHT FIT YOU IN LIFE.

IT'S A *WORLD* OF POSSIBILITIES, RUBBLE.

YOU SHOULD TURN THOSE OFF, BEE.

HE WON'T SEE ANYTHING EXCEPT WHAT YOU LIGHT UP.

TIC

YOU TWO HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME, HAVEN'T YOU?

DID YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHAT YOU WANTED TO BE?

WE LIVE LONG LIVES, RUBBLE. DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT RUSHING INTO DECISIONS.

AND DON'T IMAGINE ANY CHOICES YOU MAKE NOW ARE FIXED FOREVER.

I WAS A SCOUT IN SECURITY OPERATIONS, ALONGSIDE WINDBLADE HERE, FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

NOW I'M MORE SEARCH AND RESCUE INCLINED. THINGS CHANGE.

OF COURSE, IT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ***ENTIRELY*** YOUR OWN CHOICE TO LEAVE SECURITY.

THAT'S NOT A HELPFUL CONTRIBUTION.

I'M GIVING HIM THE ***SUMMARY*** VERSION. AND MY POINT IS STILL MY POINT.

THINGS CHANGE.

I SEE A MOVING STAR. A ***SHOOTING*** STAR!

THAT'S NOT A STAR, RUBBLE. IT'S A ***SLEEPING TITAN.***

A STARSHIP CYBERTRONIAN WHO CHOSE TO GO INTO DORMANCY AND ORBIT CYBERTRON AS PART OF OUR PLANETARY DEFENSES.

ASLEEP UP THERE? REALLY?

"REALLY. SEVERAL OF THEM, READY TO WAKE IF THEY'RE NEEDED. WHICH THEY ***HAVEN'T*** BEEN FOR TEN MEGACYCLES OR MORE, THANKS BE TO PRIMUS."

IMAGINE THAT.

IT'S QUITE A THING, ISN'T IT?

KEEP UP! TRANSMISSION STATION'S JUST AHEAD.

SO MUCH GRIT IN HIS GEARS.

MY GEARS ARE FINE. BUT WE'RE RUNNING LATE. ***WALKING*** LATE!

AND YOU KNOW WHAT BRAINSTORM'S LIKE ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING.

I'M SURE HE'LL MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR THE YOUNGEST CYBERTRONIAN IN THE UNIVERSE.

RUBBLE'LL SAVE US EVEN IF BRAINSTORM'S IN A GRITTY MOOD, TOO.

WE CAN HOPE.

COME ON...

"...IT'S JUST DOWN HERE."

BRAINSTORM'S NOT AS BAD AS I MAKE HIM SOUND, SO DON'T WORRY.

NOTHING MAKES HIM HAPPIER THAN TALKING ABOUT ENERGON ENGINEERING.

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.

BEE, CHECK THE OTHER BUILDING. RUBBLE, *DON'T* MOVE. JUST WAIT HERE.

BRAINSTORM? IS THAT YOU?

UUHHH—

TZLT

TZLT

TZZT

—BRAINSTORM?

ARE YOU OKAY?

CONTINUED IN TWO WEEKS!

>NEXT ISSUE >>>

As a special treat, IDW Editor-in-Chief and former *Transformers* and *Optimus Prime* writer John Barber conducted an interview with incoming writer Brian Ruckley about the new series and how Brian fell in love with Transformers.

John Barber: Welcome to the world of Transformers, Brian. I'm excited to have you here. I hope the fans will be, too—I've really come to love Transformers fandom in my time on the franchise.

Brian Ruckley: Thanks, John. I'm excited to be here. Not wanting to be too corny, but it feels like a privilege to be getting involved with the Transformers franchise, that has such a rich history, and a vast universe of stories, and such a big, broad, enthusiastic fan following. I hope everyone finds at least something to like in what I build in the sandbox!

JB: For people unfamiliar with you—where do you come from? What's your story?

BR: I'm a Scottish writer with a few novels and short stories under my belt – fantasy mostly, with some SF and horror type stuff here and there. From a pretty early age I was a gigantic comics fan. If you'd told the me of back then he'd wind up actually writing comics, he'd probably have passed out. I've done a couple of things for IDW before – *Rogue Trooper* and *Highlander* – and loved the experience, but Transformers is obviously the biggest, scariest, most exciting thing I've had the chance to do in comics.

JB: What got you into Transformers? Were you a Transformers fan when you were young?

BR: Honestly, I didn't really catch the Transformers bug until I was all grown up: liking some of the toys I saw here and there, watching some cartoons that turned out to be way, way better than they had any particular reason to be. Really liking some aspects of the movies. And being totally blown away by what folks like you and James Roberts did in IDW's comics. I'm a comics fan deep in my bones, so maybe it's not surprising that in the end comics were the most important route Transformers took to get inside my head.

JB: Orion Pax and Megatron have an existing… friendship? Is that the right word?

BR: I'm not sure friendship quite covers it. It's part of it, for sure – they have a long shared history, a lot of shared experience. But there are enough differences between them to inject more than a bit of friction into things. They're both sincere, more or less well-intentioned, and they each have a certain respect for the other: it's just a shame that in the long run even a place as vast as Cybertron isn't quite big enough for the both of them, or for their different ideas about how the future should look.

JB: There's an amazing sense of scale in this new series. You've got this grand epic story of the struggle for Cybertron's soul with Orion Pax and Megatron, but you're seeing it from the perspective of a new Cybertronian, Rubble.

BR: Yeah, I like Rubble. His is not the only point of view, all the time, but he's absolutely a key character. I wanted to be exploring the world, and experiencing the increasingly dramatic events, through fresh eyes. Literally fresh, because he's only recently forged when the series opens, so he has an appealing sense of discovery and wonder.

JB: Any last words for people who might be new to Transformers comics themselves?

BR: Dive on in! Part of my brief for all this was to make something that might work both for new readers and for long-time fans ready to see something new. For someone who's never read a Transformers comic in their life, this is their chance to get in at the start of an epic story. It's a big, amazing universe out there and everyone's welcome!

>COVER GALLERY>>>

>ART BY GABRIEL RODRíGUEZ
>>COLORS BY NELSON DáNIEL

>ART BY ANGEL HERNANDEZ
>>COLORS BY JOANA LAFUENTE

>ART BY CASEY W. COLLER
>>COLORS BY JOSH BURCHAM

>ART BY FREDDIE E. WILLIAMS II
>>COLORS BY ANDREW DALHOUSE

TRANSFORMERS GALAXIES

CONSTRUCTICONS RISING!

TEAR IT ALL DOWN

They built Cybertron's gleaming spires, but were erased from the planet's history. Where did the Constructicons go... and what are they planning?

ON SALE NOW!

TYLER BLESZINSKI (W) • LIVIO RAMONDELLI (A & C)

Licensed by:

HASBRO and its logo, TRANSFORMERS and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission. © 2019 Hasbro. All Rights Reserved.

LEARN MORE AT IDWPUBLISHING.COM
FOLLOW US ON

IDW